Message Text

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PAGE 01 HELSIN 01918 311628Z ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 SS-15 STR-04 CEA-01 PA-01 PRS-01 L-03 USIE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 AGRE-00 /074 W

-----001076 311633Z /50

O R 311605Z AUG 77 FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1805 INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN AMEMBASSY OSLO AMEMBASSY PARIS AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

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USOECD

EO 11652: N/A TAGS: EFIN, FI

SUBJECT: ANNOUNCEMENT OF 3 PERCENT DEVALUATION OF FINNMARK

1. AT 1600 HOURS TODAY, AUGUST 31, THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED AS PART OF A PACKAGE OF "MEASURES FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF EMPLOYMENT, RESTRAINT OF INFLATION, AND SAFEGUARDING OF PURCHASING POWER OF WAGE EARNERS' INCOMES" THAT THE AVERAGE LEVEL OF EXCHANGE RATES VIS-A-VIS THE FINNMARK WILL BE RAISED BY 3.1 PERCENT, I.E. THE FINNMARK WILL BE DEVALUED THREE PERCENT.

2. ONE BANKING OBSERVER SHARED THE EMBASSY'S IMMEDIATE REACTION THAT THE SMALL SIZE OF THE DEVALUATION MAY BE ATTRIBUTED LARGELY TO THE IMPORTANCE FOR THE GOVERNMENT'S ECONOMIC POLICIES OF AVOIDING RENEGOTIATION OF THE TWO-YEAR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WAGE AGREEMENTS ARRIVED AT LAST SPRING, WHICH A LARGER DEVALUATION WOULD HAVE TRIGGERED. HE COMMENTED THAT THE MOVE DOES LITTLE TO RECTIFY WHAT IN HIS VIEW AND THAT OF MANY BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL OFFICIALS HERE IS A SUBSTANTIAL OVERVALUATION OF THE FINNMARK. ON THE OTHER HAND, WITH THE NEED TO ARRIVE VIRTUALLY SIMULTANEOUSLY AT A VALUATION DECISION, AN AGRICULTURAL

INCOMES SETTLEMENT, WHOSE ACHIEVEMENT
WAS AMONG THE MEASURES ANNOUNCED, AND BUDGET PROPOSALS
FOR INTRODUCTION IN PARLIAMENT, THE GOVERNMENT WAS FACED WITH
AN INTER-RELATED SET OF PROBLEMS TO BE DEALT WITH IN VERY SHORT
ORDER. FOR THE TIME BEING, THE CONSIDERABLE THREAT TO
THE CONSENSUS UNDERLYING GOVERNMENTAL ECONOMIC POLICIES
APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN OVERCOME.
RIDGWAY

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NNN

Message Attributes

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